

generating a score associated with the lesion using a trained machine learning network.

**11.** An apparatus for classifying a lesion in a medical image, comprising:

means for receiving an input medical image depicting a lesion;

means for localizing the lesion in the input medical image using a trained localization network to generate a localization map;

means for classifying the lesion based on the input medical image and the localization map using a trained classification network; and

means for outputting the classification of the lesion,

wherein the trained localization network and the trained classification network are jointly trained.

**12.** The apparatus of claim **11**, further comprising:

means for jointly training the trained localization network and the trained classification network by separately training the localization network to determine weights of the localization network during a first training phase, and training the classification network based on the weights of the localization network during a second training phase.

**13.** The apparatus of claim **12**, wherein the means for separately training the localization network comprises:

means for receiving a multi-site dataset associated with different clinical sites and a deployment dataset associated with a deployment clinical site;

means for training a deep learning model based on the multi-site dataset; and

means for optimizing the trained deep learning model based on the deployment dataset to provide the trained localization network.

**14.** The apparatus of claim **11**, further comprising:

means for generating a clinical relevance map and a label indicating whether the lesion is clinically significant based on the localization map and one or more of: a size of the lesion, an average intensity within the lesion, a variance of intensities within the lesion, radiomic features, and lexicon based features.

**15.** The apparatus of claim **11**, further comprising:

means for generating a patch from the input medical image using the localization map; and

means for generating a score associated with the lesion using a trained machine learning network.

**16.** A non-transitory computer readable medium storing computer program instructions, the computer program instructions when executed by a processor cause the processor to perform operations comprising:

receiving an input medical image depicting a lesion;

localizing the lesion in the input medical image using a trained localization network to generate a localization map;

classifying the lesion based on the input medical image and the localization map using a trained classification network; and

outputting the classification of the lesion,

wherein the trained localization network and the trained classification network are jointly trained.

**17.** The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim **16**, wherein:

the input medical image is a multi-parametric magnetic resonance imaging (mpMRI) image comprising a plurality of images;

localizing the lesion in the input medical image using a trained localization network to generate a localization map comprises localizing the lesion in each of the plurality of images using the trained localization network to generate a localization map for each of the plurality of images; and

classifying the lesion based on the input medical image and the localization map using a trained classification network comprises:

combining the localization maps for the plurality of images, and

classifying the lesion based on the plurality of images and the combined localization maps using the trained classification network.

**18.** The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim **17**, the operations further comprising:

preprocessing the plurality of images of the mpMRI image to address variances between the plurality of images.

**19.** The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim **18**, wherein preprocessing the plurality of images of the mpMRI image to address variances between the plurality of images comprises:

removing geometric variability in the plurality of images of the mpMRI image.

**20.** The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim **18**, wherein preprocessing the plurality of images of the mpMRI image to address variances between the plurality of images comprises:

normalizing intensity variability in the plurality of images of the mpMRI image.

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